Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP).

This Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented in the catchments of Ramganga and Matatila in U.P. Chambal, Mahi, Matatila, Hirakud, Ukai, Tawa, Rengali-Mandira and Sardar Sarovar in M.P. and Dantiwada, Damanganga, Mahi, Ukai and Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat. So far an area of 1.24 lakh ha., 7.43 lakh ha. and 0.82 lakh ha. have been treated at expenditure of Rs. 35.9, Rs. 84.9 and 20.3 crores in the States of U.P., M.P., and Gujarat respectively.

Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)

This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented in the catchments of Sone, Gomti, Upper Yamuna and Upper Ganga in U.P. and in the catchment of Sone in M.P. So far 2.74 lakh ha. and 0.65 lakh ha. have been treated at expenditure of Rs. 68.1 crores and Rs. 16.36 crores in the States of U.P. and M.P. respectively.

Besides, the Department of Wasteland Development also implements land based development programmes in which soil conservation measures form a component.

Evolving a New Education Policy

1247. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken an initiative to evolve a new education policy by organising a series of symposia and conferences;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) broad objectives contemplated to be achieved under the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, as updated in 1992 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992 contain a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in its entirety. The framework continues to be of relevance. However, to bring in greater expedition in the implementation of the programme in the thrust areas of education and to invigorate the education system, the Government has initiated a national debate on vital issues like Compulsory Primary Education, Load of School Bag, Examination Reforms, Value Education and Vocational Education through a series of regional seminars in various parts of the country involving a cross section of the society, *i.e.* public representatives, parents, students, media and academicians.

Newspaper Report on Cooperation with Italy and Austria

1248. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether he propose to visit/visited Austria and Italy to explore the cooperation of his Ministry to foreign companies for bringing technology into India and organising a workshop with TECHINI and DANIELI, the Italian rolling mill suppliers and world leaders inroll grinding technology as reported in Financial Express, New Delhi, dated 22nd November, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of countries with whom MOUs for Joint Ventures have been signed during the last three years indicating foreign investment in each project, expenditure incurred till 15th November, 1995 and balance available for steady growth of steel industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Austria and Italy are among the foremost countries in steel production technology. The expertise and experience of Austrian and Italian steel industries, which possess state-of-the-art technology, could be extremely valuable in technological upgradation and modernisation of Indian steel industry and could help in improvement of quality of the products and reduction of the cost of production. The international competitiveness of Indian steel industry will mainly depend upon quality and cost of its products, which will enable it to have sustained presence in the international market.

During the visit of the Minister of State for Steel to Austria in November, 1995, training of the huge manpower required by the growing Indian steel industry, environmental protection, waste and water treatment, desulphurisation of coal and captive power generation in steel plants were identified as possible areas of cooperation between India and Austria. The Austrian Government expressed keenness in stepwise transfer of technology so that ultimately both the technology and capacity for manufacture of plant and machinery could be indigenously available in India.

Presentations were made by Voest Alpine Industries, the largest steel producer in Austria and also a Government controlled company, about emerging new technologies such as the Corex Process, Finmet Process, Thin Slab Casting etc. Voest Alpine has long standing relations with the Indian steel Industry because of their proven track record in steel making, modernisation of steel plants etc. The company's process of manufacture of high quality Head Special Hardened Rails (HDH) is also of special interest.

During the visit of Minister of State for Steel to Italy between 15th to 17th November, 1995, there was focus during official discussions on strategic technical alliances of steel giants of Italy with emerging Indian steel majors. The Italian Government expressed the view that India could gain enormously from their expertise in the technically efficient and environment-friendly gas-based combined cycle technology. Techint, one of the leading steel technology companies in Italy, evinced keen interest in investing in Indian steel industry through joint venture projects with Indian partners. Danieli, another steel technology giant, acknowledged the tremendous growth opportunities in the Indian steel sector and expressed their keenness to enlarge their operations in India. Both the companies sought the assistance of Ministry of Steel in providing them an opportunity of interaction with different segments of Indian steel industry and mooted the idea of holding workshops in India about the technologies developed by them.

(c) The details of MOUs for Joint Ventures signed by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited (MECON) are annexed as statement.

Statement

Name of the Company	Field	Proposed foreign investment in JVC	Expenditure incurred upto 15.11.95
1	2	3	4
I. SAIL			
USX Engineers and Consultants, USA.	Information technology	Rs. 27 lacs	Rs. 18 lacs

1	2	3	4
Community Energy Alternatives, USA (together with L&T of India)	Power Project at Bhilai.	Rs. 169 crores	Nil
Amet Ltd., Russia Moscow Institute of Steel Technology, Russia Novolipetsk Steel Works, Russia.	Iron making	Rs. 60 lacs	Nil
II. MECON			
Alpro AG, Germany.	Turnkey supply of equipments	Rs. 29.6 lacs	—

Review of welfare schemes for the Upliftment of Poor

1249. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the various welfare schemes introduced for the upliftment of the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the effective implementation of such schemes is not taking place;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete steps Government propose to take to implement such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government review various schemes introduced for the upliftment of the poor at regular intervals. For ensuring effective implementation of the schemes, the implementation is monitored at different levels in the Ministry as well as such other forum like Planning Commission and Consultative Committee etc. For effective monitoring, periodical reports are obtained from the State Governments/UTs. Complaints received from other sources are also looked into. If any deficiency/problems are brought out in these reports/ complaints, the remedial measures are immediately taken. The deficiencies in the implementation of the schmes are also brought to the notice of the State Governments/UT Administrations at sufficiently high level which includes Chief Ministers/Ministers/Secretaries in charge of the Department.

भारतीय उर्वरक निगम के कोरबा एकक का बंद किया जाना

1250. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने भारतीय उर्वरक निगम की कोरबा स्थित इकाई को बंद करने के आदेश जारी किए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त इकाई बंद की जा चुकी है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) इस संबंध में सरकार क्या कार्रवाई करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री राम लखन सिंह यादव): (क) से (ङ) फर्टिलाइजर कार्पोरेशन आफ इंडिया लि० (एफ०सी०आई०) की कोरबा स्थित कोयले पर आधारित उर्वरक परियोजना को बन्द करने का निर्णय जनवरी 1990 में लिया गया था। की गयी अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई में कोरबा में परियोजना इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर तथा भूमि हस्तांतरण के लिए मध्य प्रदेश विद्युत बोर्ड तथा मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के साथ बातचीत तथा परियोजना कर्मचारियों का समावेशन शामिल है।